b) assigning priority within the PBX/MLTS to a call determined to be an emergency call, such that said call takes priority over other calls in traversing said private network before reaching a public network trunk.

8. (amended) An apparatus for processing an emergency call made from behind a PBX/MLTS coupled to a private network, said apparatus comprising:

a) means within the PBX/MLTS for determining whether dialed digits represent an emergency number; and

b) means for assigning priority within the PBX/MLTS to a call determined to be an emergency call, such that said call takes priority over other calls in traversing said private network before reaching a public network trunk.

Please add new claims 15 and 16 as follows.

15. A method for processing an emergency call made from behind a PBX/MLTS, said method comprising the steps of:

a) within the PBX/MLTS determining whether dialed digits represent an emergency number; and

b) assigning priority within the PBX/MLTS to a call determined to be an emergency call without interrupting any existing calls.

16. An apparatus for processing an emergency call made from behind a PBX/MLTS, said apparatus comprising:

a) means within the PBX/MLTS for determining whether dialed digits represent an emergency number; and

b) means for assigning priority within the PBX/MLTS to a call determined to be an emergency call without interrupting any existing calls.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended and new independent claims 15 and 16 are submitted.